



**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

Order 2004-3-20

Issued by the Department of Transportation
on the 18th day of March, 2004

Ninety-day notice of intent of

**SHUTTLE AMERICA CORPORATION
d/b/a US Airways Express**

to terminate service at Lynchburg, Virginia,
under 49 U.S.C. 41731 *et seq.*

Served: March 23, 2004

DOCKET OST-2004-17013

ORDER ALLOWING SUSPENSION OF SERVICE

Summary

By this order, the Department is allowing Shuttle America Corporation, d/b/a US Airways Express (Shuttle America), to suspend its scheduled service at Lynchburg, Virginia, on May 1, 2004.

Background

On January 30, 2004, Shuttle America filed a 90-day notice of its intent to suspend service at Lynchburg effective May 1, 2004. The carrier currently operates three daily nonstop round trips between Lynchburg and Pittsburgh using 34-seat SAAB 340 aircraft.

Lynchburg receives additional service provided by two other carriers. Air Midwest, also a US Airways Express carrier, currently operates five daily nonstop round trips to Charlotte, with 19-seat Beech 1900 aircraft. Atlantic Southeast Airlines, a Delta Connection carrier, operates three daily nonstop round trips to Atlanta, with 70-seat Canadair CRJ aircraft. By Order 84-10-138, Lynchburg's essential air service determination was defined as at least two daily nonstop round trips to Washington and two daily nonstop round trips to Roanoke, with a total of 67 seats inbound and 67 seats outbound.

Decision

After careful consideration, we have decided to allow Shuttle America to suspend its service at Lynchburg, effective May 1, 2004. Even without Shuttle America's service, Lynchburg will still receive Air Midwest's nonstop service to Charlotte and Atlantic Southeast's nonstop service to

Atlanta, providing a total of 305 seats outbound and 305 seats inbound, far in excess of Lynchburg's guarantee of 67 seats inbound and outbound each day. In this case, we conclude that the service provided by Air Midwest and Atlantic Southeast Airlines will more than meet the core responsibility of the EAS program to provide Lynchburg a continuing link to the national air transportation system. In addition, as code-share partners of US Airways Express and Delta Connection, these carriers are able to offer Lynchburg travelers on-line connecting service through both US Airways' and Delta's systems.

As a final matter, before suspending service, we expect Shuttle America to contact all passengers holding reservations for flights affected, to inform them of the suspension, and to secure alternate air transportation for such passengers or to provide a refund of the ticket price, without penalty, if requested.

This order is issued under authority delegated in 49 CFR 1.56a(f).

ACCORDINGLY,

1. We will take no action to prohibit Shuttle America Corporation, d/b/a US Airways Express, from suspending its scheduled service at Lynchburg, Virginia, on May 1, 2004;
2. We will rely on Allegheny Airlines, Inc., d/b/a US Airways Express, and Atlantic Southeast Airlines, d/b/a Delta Connection, to meet the essential air service needs of Lynchburg, Virginia;
3. We will serve a copy of this order on the parties listed in the Certificate of Service of Docket OST-2004-17013.

By:

KARAN K. BHATIA
Assistant Secretary for Aviation
and International Affairs

(SEAL)

*An electronic version of this document is available on the World Wide Web at
<http://dms.dot.gov>*